

products have at any time been sold or offered for sale in domestic commerce.

PART 1020—SMALL BUSINESS

Sec.

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§ 1020.1 Why is the Commission issuing this rule?

(a) To state the Commission’s policies on small businesses;

(b) To assure that the Commission continues to treat small businesses fairly;

(c) To assure that small businesses do not bear a disproportionate share of any burden or cost created by a Commission regulatory, enforcement, or other action; and

(d) To assure that small businesses are given every opportunity to participate fully in the Commission’s regulatory process.

§ 1020.2 What is the definition of “small business”?

As used in this part, the term *small business* means any entity that is either a *small business*, *small organization*, or *small governmental jurisdiction*, as those terms are defined at 5 U.S.C. 601(3), (4), and (5), respectively.

§ 1020.3 What are the qualifications and duties of the Small Business Ombudsman?

(a) The Chairman will appoint a senior, full-time Commission employee as Small Business Ombudsman. The Ombudsman must:

(1) Have a working knowledge of the Commission’s statutes and regulations;

(2) Be familiar with the industries and products that the Commission regulates;

(3) Develop a working knowledge of the regulatory problems that small businesses experience;

(4) Perform the Ombudsman duties in addition to, and consistently with, other Commission responsibilities; and

(5) Not work in the Office of Compliance or Office of Hazard Identification and Reduction.

(b) The duties of the Small Business Ombudsman will include, but not be limited to, the following:

(1) Developing and implementing a program to assist small businesses that is consistent with § 1020.4;

(2) Working to expedite Commission responses to small businesses and providing information, guidance, and technical assistance to small businesses;

(3) Performing a review, at least twice a year, of the Commission’s regulatory agenda for actions likely to have a significant impact on small businesses; and

(4) Pursuing the interests of small businesses by maintaining a working relationship with appropriate officials in the Small Business Administration, in national trade associations that represent small businesses, and in the Commission.

§ 1020.4 What is the Small Business Program?

(a) Whenever the Commission is aware of the interests of small businesses, it will consider those interests before taking any action that will likely have a significant effect on small businesses.

(b) Small businesses may request and receive special assistance from the Commission, as appropriate and consistent with Commission resources. Examples of such assistance are:

(1) Small businesses may contact the Small Business Ombudsman to obtain information about Commission statutes, regulations, or programs; to obtain technical assistance; to determine who in the agency has particular expertise that might be helpful to the small business; or to help expedite a small business’s request.

(2) Small businesses may request assistance from the Commission by using the small business extension on the Commission’s hotline telephone system. The number is 1–800–638–2772, extension 234.

(3) The Small Business Ombudsman will directly provide small businesses